

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as now presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 10-13, and 15-20 have been canceled. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 14 have been amended. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 14 are active in the application.

Applicant notes that the patent application having serial number 10/024,273 has been assigned from Paracer, Inc., to Stratos Lightwave, Inc. Unlike the previous assignee, the current assignee, Stratos Lightwave, Inc., is a non-small entity business concern. Applicant requests the United States Patent and Trademark Office to take notice that the present assignee of the patent application having serial number 10/024,273 is a non-small entity business concern.

Briefly, Applicant's invention is directed to a device for optically connecting an array of optical fibers with an optoelectronic device having an array of photoactive components. Methods and devices are known in the art for optically coupling at least two optical fibers with at least two photoactive devices. However, the known methods and devices are believed to be either relatively large, expensive, and/or fragile.

In order to solve the above-identified problems, Applicants has invented a device which is relatively inexpensive to produce, is relatively small, and is robust.

Claim 1 has been amended so as to generally include the features recited in originally filed Claims 2-5. The device as recited in amended Claim 1 is a parallel optics subassembly. The parallel optics subassembly mates with a ferrule that has a set of alignment holes and an array of optical fibers. The parallel optics subassembly includes a receptacle, a carrier assembly,

and a lens and alignment frame. The receptacle guides the ferrule into the parallel optics subassembly and latches the ferrule to the parallel optics subassembly. The receptacle further includes a window. The carrier assembly includes an optoelectronic device. The optoelectronic device includes an array of photoactive components. The lens and alignment frame includes twelve lenses. Each lens is truncated and has a height dimension which is greater than its width dimension. Each lens shares a contiguous boundary with adjacent lenses. One lens is separated from a second lens by a first interval. The first interval is substantially equal to 250 microns. The lens and alignment frame include a set of guide pins for mating with the alignment holes of the ferrule. Therefore, it is believed that the device is both robust and inexpensive to manufacture and is compact.

Likewise, Claims 6, 9, and 14 have been amended so as to include the new features concerning the lenses as recited in amended Claim 1.

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kakii, et al.

The Kakii, et al reference was cited for disclosing every feature of every claims as originally filed. However, the Kakii, et al reference does not disclose the features of the lens and alignment frame having twelve lenses, where two of the lenses are separated by a first interval of 250 microns. The Kakii, et al reference lacks the claimed features of “each lens of the array of lenses being truncated in a lateral direction so as to have a height dimension and a width dimension, the height dimension being greater than the width dimension,” and “each lens of the array of lenses having common boundaries with adjacent lenses of the array of lenses which are contiguously positioned in a linear array,” and wherein “a first lens of the array of lenses is separated from a second lens of the array of lenses by a first interval, and wherein the first

interval is substantially equal to 250 microns,” and wherein “the array of lenses includes twelve lenses,” as recited in amended Claim 1. Therefore, the Kakii, et al reference is not believed to anticipate or render obvious Applicants’ claimed invention as recited in amended Claim 1.

Amended Claims 6, 9, and 14 recite similar arrangements and features of the lenses. For the reasons stated above, Applicants believe that amended Claims 6, 9, and 14 define over the prior art of record.

The title of the invention was objected to for not being descriptive. Applicants have changed the title of the invention. The title of the invention is now: PARALLEL OPTICS SUBASSEMBLY HAVING AT LEAST TWELVE LENSES. Portions of the title are recited in the preamble of the claims. The other portion of the title referring to twelve lenses is recited in the claims and finds support in Figures 4 and 13 where twelve lenses are clearly identifiable. Therefore, Applicants believe that the new title is descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The attached two sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 7 and 13. The first sheet, which includes Figure 7 only, replaces the original sheet. The second sheet, which includes Figures 12 and 13, replaces the original sheet including Figures 12 and 13. In Figure 7, an erroneous use of numeral designator 38 has been correctly replaced with numeral designator 48. An annotated sheet is attached which shows the changes made to Figure 7 in red ink. In Figure 13, an erroneous use of numeral designators 71 and 73 and their associated leader lines have been deleted. An annotated sheet is attached which shows the changes made to Figure 13 in red ink.

Grammatical and clarify amendments have been made to the specification, and also to the claims.

The above changes to the title, specification, drawings, and claims are self-evident from the original disclosure; thus, no new matter has been introduced, and no new issues have been raised.

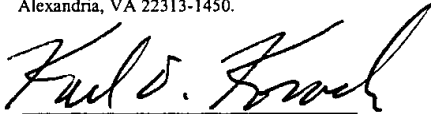
Applicants note that their mailing address is as shown below:

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In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are definite and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is being deposited
with the United States Postal Service First-Class mail on this 13th
day of November, 2003, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.



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Attachments: Replacement sheet for Figure 7
Annotated sheet for Figure 7 showing changes in red ink
Replacement sheet for Figures 12 and 13
Annotated sheet for Figures 12 and 13 showing changes in red ink